

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABC Cites Clerks for Selling Alcohol to Minors

(Santa Cruz County) – Investigators of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) in cooperation with the Santa Cruz Police Department have cited two people for selling alcohol to a minor. The action was the result of a compliance check operation on May 25, 2007 in which minors under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 19 separate retail licensees in the city of Santa Cruz.

Those who sold to the minor face a maximum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the business's liquor license. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunk driving fatalities than the general adult population.

Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that liquor licensees are complying with the law.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.